

“What Everyone Should Know About the Holy Spirit” Part 1 - 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 – November 8th, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part one of a new series I've titled, "What Everyone Should Know About the Holy Spirit."
- Here in chapter twelve, the Apostle Paul turns a corner and addresses the matter of the gifts of the Spirit in the life of a believer.
- I have to confess that while I didn't really look forward to teaching through chapter 11, I've really looked forward to chapter 12.

- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the most important aspects of a Christian's life it would be the gifts of the Spirit.
- Sadly, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the baptism in the Holy Spirit have been the source of much division in the church today.
- Enter the text before us, where Paul provides us with some of the reasons the gifts of the Holy Spirit are so misunderstood.

1. Christians can be ignorant about the gifts (Verses 1-3)

- v1 Paul tells them as brothers and sisters in Christ, that he doesn't want for them to be ignorant about the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- v2 He reminds them of the undue influence their past pagan experience can have on them when it comes to the supernatural.
- v3 Paul gives them a template of sorts concerning this, such that no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Spirit of God.

- It's interesting to note that Paul will use this phrase, "I would have you not be ignorant," a total of three times in his epistles.
- In Romans 11:25 it's don't be ignorant of God's plan for Israel. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13, it's don't be ignorant about the rapture.
- Then here in 1 Corinthians 12, it's don't be ignorant about the gifts. What's interesting is that all three are controversial today.

- I made the decision to start with just verses 1-3 so as to begin with the basics of what I suppose you could call Holy Spirit 101.
- The reason being is that like the church in Corinth, many are uninformed, or if you prefer, ignorant when it comes to the basics.
- What follows is a simple Biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit, and perhaps more importantly the baptism of/with the Holy Spirit.

- First, I'm going to use the "baptism," with the Spirit, "filled" with the Spirit, and receiving the "gift" of the Spirit interchangeably.
- Second, it's important to understand that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, such that He is God the Holy Spirit.
- The reason I mention this is because often times, the Holy Spirit is seen as a force instead of the third person of the Trinity.

Pastor Damian Kyle of Calvary Chapel Modesto said it best this way, "The Holy Spirit is a person not a force. If I view the Holy Spirit as a force, I'll see it as how much of the Holy Spirit I have. If I view the Holy Spirit as a Person, I'll see it as how much of the Holy Spirit has me."

- What I'd like to do is answer the five most often asked questions concerning the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Question #1: What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? – Answer, It's when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and empowers you.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power (dunamis) when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Question #2: Don't I receive the Holy Spirit when I receive Christ? – Answer, - Yes and no. It is possible for someone to be baptized with the Holy Spirit at their conversion however we find in the scriptures that there are three separate experiences.

1) "Para" = Along side, as a helper. It's the word we use for Paramedic, Paralegal, or a Parachute

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor (parakletos) to be with you forever-

2) "En" = In or indwelling

John 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in (en) you.

3) "Epi" = Upon or overflowing

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon (epi) you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- The pitcher of water is alongside, (para) the glass.
- The pitcher of water is being poured in, (en) the glass.
- The pitcher of water is being poured upon, (epi) the glass to overflowing.

The Biblical examples of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon a believer subsequent to the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer at conversion are many, not the least of them which is found later in the book of Acts.

Acts 8:12-17 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. 14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon (epi) any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Question #3: I thought there was only one baptism? – Answer, the Bible describes three baptisms, the first of which is the baptism into the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

The second is with water, Acts 1:5, For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

The third baptism is with the Holy Spirit - Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

As for Ephesians 4:4-6 where we're told, "4 There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called- 5 one Lord, one faith, one-baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all," this speaks of the "one-baptism" into the body of Christ.

Hebrews 6:1-3 1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

Question #4: Is speaking in tongues the only evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit? Answer, no, it can be a sign, because it's one of the gifts however, gifts are received in an event, while fruits are grown in a process.

Galatians 5:22-23 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Pastor Chuck Smith, "The fruit of the Spirit is love. It will be that which is manifested when a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit."

John 7:37-39 37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Question #5: How do I get baptized in the Holy Spirit? - Answer, all we have to do is ask.

Luke 11:9-13 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

- The bottom line is that once I've been baptized with the Holy Spirit, I need to continually, daily, be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Perhaps we should ask, "*are you baptized in the Holy Spirit?*" instead of asking, "*have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?*"
- In closing, I think I'd be grossly remiss were I not to give those of you an opportunity to "ask" for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.